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MARVEL

#50

DARK REIGN
THE NEW AVENGERS

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AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FOUND THEMSELVES UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

THE NEW AVENGERS

THE SHAPE-SHIFTING ALIEN RACE KNOWN AS THE SKRULLS HAS FAILED AT THEIR ATTEMPTED INVASION OF EARTH. BUT THE DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE.

TONY STARK TOOK THE BLAME FOR THE INVASION AND HAS BEEN STRIPPED OF HIS ROLES AS BOTH LEADER OF THE AVENGERS AND DIRECTOR OF A NOW DEFUNCT S.H.I.E.L.D., WHILE THUNDERBOLTS LEADER, AND ONE-TIME SUPER-VILLAIN GREEN GOBLIN, NORMAN OSBORN HAS RISEN TO POWER AND BEEN APPOINTED TO REPLACE STARK.

DURING THE INVASION, THE GROWING PARANOIA CREATED A RIFT IN THE MARRIAGE OF AVENGER LUKE CAGE AND JESSICA JONES. WORRIED FOR THE SAFETY OF THEIR CHILD, JESSICA SEEKS SHELTER AT AVENGERS TOWER, UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF STARK'S BUTLER, JARVIS, TO WAIT OUT THE WORST OF IT.

BUT WHEN THE INVASION'S FINAL BATTLE HIT ITS ZENITH, JESSICA JONES MADE THE SELFLESS DECISION TO LEAVE HER CHILD WITH JARVIS, AND FIGHT ALONGSIDE HER HUSBAND. LITTLE DID SHE KNOW, JARVIS WAS ONE OF THE SKRULL AGENTS EMBEDDED WITHIN THE AVENGERS.

BY THE TIME JESSICA FIGURED IT OUT, JARVIS, AND THE BABY, WERE GONE.

THE NEW AVENGERS HAVE GATHERED UNDER CAPTAIN AMERICA'S ROOF, BUT TRY AS THEY MIGHT THEY CANNOT FIND THE MISSING BABY. SO LUKE CAGE TURNS TO THE ONE MAN WITH THE POWER AND INFLUENCE TO HELP HIM... NORMAN OSBORN. OSBORN USES HIS INFLUENCE TO HELP GET THE BABY IN RETURN FOR LUKE'S ALLEGIANCE. BUT WITH THE BABY SAFE, LUKE RENEGES ON THE DEAL, AND, UNBEKNOWNST TO HIM, MAKES OSBORN'S LIST.

THE GATHERED AVENGERS CELEBRATE THE BABY'S SAFE RETURN BUT ARE SHOCKED TO SEE A WORLDWIDE PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING THE ARRIVAL OF OSBORN'S VERSION OF THE AVENGERS. AVENGERS THAT HAVE TAKEN THE ICONIC LIKENESS OF MANY OF THEM.

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
WRITER

BILLY TAN, MATT BANNING AND JUSTIN PONSOR
ART

BRYAN HITCH AND RAIN BEREDO
DAVID AJA AND DAVE STEWART
MICHAEL GAYDOS
DAVID LÓPEZ AND ÁLVARO LÓPEZ
ALEX MALEEV
STEVE MCNIVEN, DEXTER VINES AND MORRY HOLLOWELL
LEINIL YU, MARK MORALES AND DAVE MCCAIG
STEVE EPTING
GREG HORN
GUEST ARTISTS

RS & COMICRAFT'S
ALBERT DESCHESNE
LETTERER

TAN, BANNING AND
PONSOR
COVER ART

ADAM KUBERT AND
JUSTIN PONSOR
VARIANT COVER

JOE SABINO
PRODUCTION

JEANINE SCHAEFER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

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YOUR... AVENGERS!

PAUSE IT THERE.

THERE!

PAUSE II

WHO THE HELL ARE *THESE* SO-CALLED AVENGERS?

MS. MARVEL

HONESTLY, I DON'T EVEN CARE.

I JUST KNOW I REALLY, REALLY WANT TO SLAP EACH AND EVERY *ONE OF THEM.*

YES, CLINT, YOU'VE MADE THAT CLEAR, BUT WE'RE NOT JUST GOING TO GO OVER THERE AND *TRASH A SKYSCRAPER.*

AND WE'RE CERTAINLY NOT GOING OVER THERE BLIND, WITHOUT A PLAN, OR KNOWING WHO AND WHAT THEY ARE!

THEY'RE PROBABLY ALL SKRULLS.

RONIN

WOLVERINE

OSBORN'S CRAZY, BUT HE AIN'T *THAT* CRAZY.

SPIDER-MAN

IRON FIST

JUST STOP SAYING *SKRULL.* I'M SICK OF THE WORD.

IN MY EXPERIENCE, ACTUALLY, HE MAY VERY MUCH *BE* THAT CRAZY.

SINCERELY.

NORMAN OSBORN IS A *HERO* NOW?

NO.

SURE HE IS.

I SAW IT ON TV.

AND NOW I'M GOING TO TAKE OFF ALL MY CLOTHES AND GO RUN THROUGH THE STREETS SCREAMING.

LUKE CAGE

CAPTAIN AMERICA
HE'S GOT ONE DRESSED AS HAWKEYE.
AND I'M SAYING: IF IT'S NOT ACTUALLY ME OR THAT KATE BISHOP GIRL, I'M PISSED.
HE'S GOT A BLACK COSTUME SPIDEY.
HE ACTUALLY WENT AND GOT HIMSELF A SPIDEY. I MEAN, TO GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO DO THAT.
WHAT A TOOL.
SO ARES AND THE SENTRY ARE COMPLETE AND TOTAL SELLOUTS. IS THAT WHAT WE'VE LEARNED TODAY?
SENTRY'S A SICK MAN WHO SHOULD BE COMMITTED. SOMEWHERE OFF-PLANET, PREFERABLY.
I HEAR THAT.
AND ARES, I HAVE NO IDEA.
ARES IS ARES. GOD OF WAR.
THOR WANNA-BE.
LET'S SEE YOU SAY THAT TO HIS FACE.
I'LL SAY IT RIGHT TO HIS FACE.
SURE YOU WILL.
SO IS THAT--WHO IS THAT ONE? IS CAPTAIN MARVEL ALIVE NOW?
I DON'T THINK SO.
I THINK THAT'S THAT MARVEL BOY KID.
HE WAS GOOD WITH THE SKRULLS.
SO WHO'S THE MS. MARVEL?
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WENT AND GOT A MS. MARVEL. OF ALL THE--
WELL, YOU DID TELL HIM TO GO @#$% HIMSELF.
I DID, BUT--WHERE WOULD HE EVEN GET PEOPLE WITH--?
AH @#$%, YOU KNOW WHO THEY ARE...?

THOSE ARE THE @#$% @#$ING THUNDERBOLTS.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
COUPLE OF THEM WERE IN THE TOWER WHEN WE GOT THE BABY BACK.
THAT'S--THAT'S WHAT'S-HER-FACE, THE ONE WITH THE MOONSTONE. WHAT'S HER NAME?!
MOONSTONE.
SHE-- HE DRESSED HER UP AS ME.
SO THAT MEANS-- OH, MAN... THAT'S BULLSEYE?!
BULLSEYE, THE CRAZY ASSASSIN?!
THAT'S BULLSEYE DRESSED AS HAWKEYE?!
YOU'RE DRESSED AS ECHO.
WHERE IS MAYA?!
I DON'T KNOW. SHE DISAPPEARED AFTER THE BIG SKRULL BATTLE.
I CALLED HER TO MEET US. SHE NEVER SHOWED.
MAN, HOPE SHE'S OKAY.
WHO'S MAYA?!
OH, NO. NO NO NO.
THAT'S-- THAT'S VENOM.
THAT'S VENOM AS ME. THAT'S-- AND IT'S NOT EVEN THE GOOD ONE. IT'S MAC GARGAN.
WHO?
THE SCORPION.
WHO?
GUY USED TO FIGHT WITH A SCORPION TAIL. YOU KNOW... HE USED TO THROW HIS BUTT AT YOU.
AND NOW HE'S--?
YEAH.
AND NORMAN'S GOT HIM IN THE TOWER?
EXACTLY.
WOW.
I KNOW, RIGHT?
WHO'S THE WOLVERINE THEY GOT?
ANYONE YOU KNOW?
IT'S MY KID.

YOU HAVE A--?

YOU'VE HAD SEX?
DO WE NEED TO GO IN THERE AND SAVE HIM?
IT'S NOT A KIDNAPPING.
KID'S A GROWN-UP. KID MADE A DECISION.
MAYBE HE'S BEEN BRAINWASHED OR...
NO.
BUT I *WOULD* LIKE A WORD WITH THE BOY.
I JUST-- NOT TO CHANGE THE UNCOMFORTABLE SUBJECT-- BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW OSBORN'S GOT ALL OF TONY STARK'S STUFF.
HE HAS TONY STARK'S ENTIRE BUILDING?!
THAT-- THAT SEEMS SO--
TONY WAS PAYING FOR EVERYTHING WITH S.H.I.E.L.D MONEY.
REALLY?!

WHY WOULD STARK DO THAT?
CLEARLY, HE DIDN'T SEE ANY OF THIS COMING.
NONE OF US DID.
(BULLSEYE.)
I'M JUST TELLING YOU WHAT I KNOW.
I MET WITH OSBORN YESTERDAY--THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD.
SO THIS NORMAN OSBORN...
THIS IS THE GREEN GOBLIN.
YES.
THERE'S NO QUESTION.
NONE.
HE'S MURDERED.
YES.
AND SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH A TEAM OF LIKE-MINDED--
YES.
AND HE'S WEASELED HIS WAY INTO A POSITION OF POWER, AND WE BELIEVE IT HAS TO BE WITH THE INTENTION OF ABUSING IT.

ABSOLUTELY.

SO WE GO IN THERE... WE FIGHT THEM.

THEN WHAT? WE ARREST THEM? *NO.* BECAUSE WE CAN'T.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

WE EXPOSE THEM FOR WHAT THEY ARE.

YES.

HOW?

HAVE YOU EVER--EVER--FOUGHT ANYONE WHO, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIGHT, *HASN'T* EXPOSED THEMSELVES FOR WHO THEY REALLY ARE?

WE DON'T JUST ATTACK THEM IN THEIR HOME.

IT'S STUPID. IT'S-- NO.

FIRST OF ALL, NO OFFENSE, WE'RE JUST OUTPOWERED.

UM...

NOT ENTIRELY.

YEAH?

REMEMBER WHEN TONY STARK TRIED TO TRAP YOU GUYS WITH CAP'S DEAD BODY AS BAIT?

AH, GOOD TIMES.

TONY'S POWER INHIBITOR. YES.

HEY, IF NOT FOR DOCTOR STRANGE POPPING YOU GUYS OUT OF THERE, WE *HAD* YOU.

WHERE *IS* DOCTOR STRANGE?

WALKING THE EARTH, LIKE CAINE IN *KUNG FU.*

SO WE WHAT?

LURE THEM TO US AND DEPOWER THEM?

DEPOWER THEM.

AND BEAT THE BLACK OFF THEM.

CAN YOU EVEN GET ONE OF THESE STARKTECH THINGS?

I CAN.

EXCUSE ME...

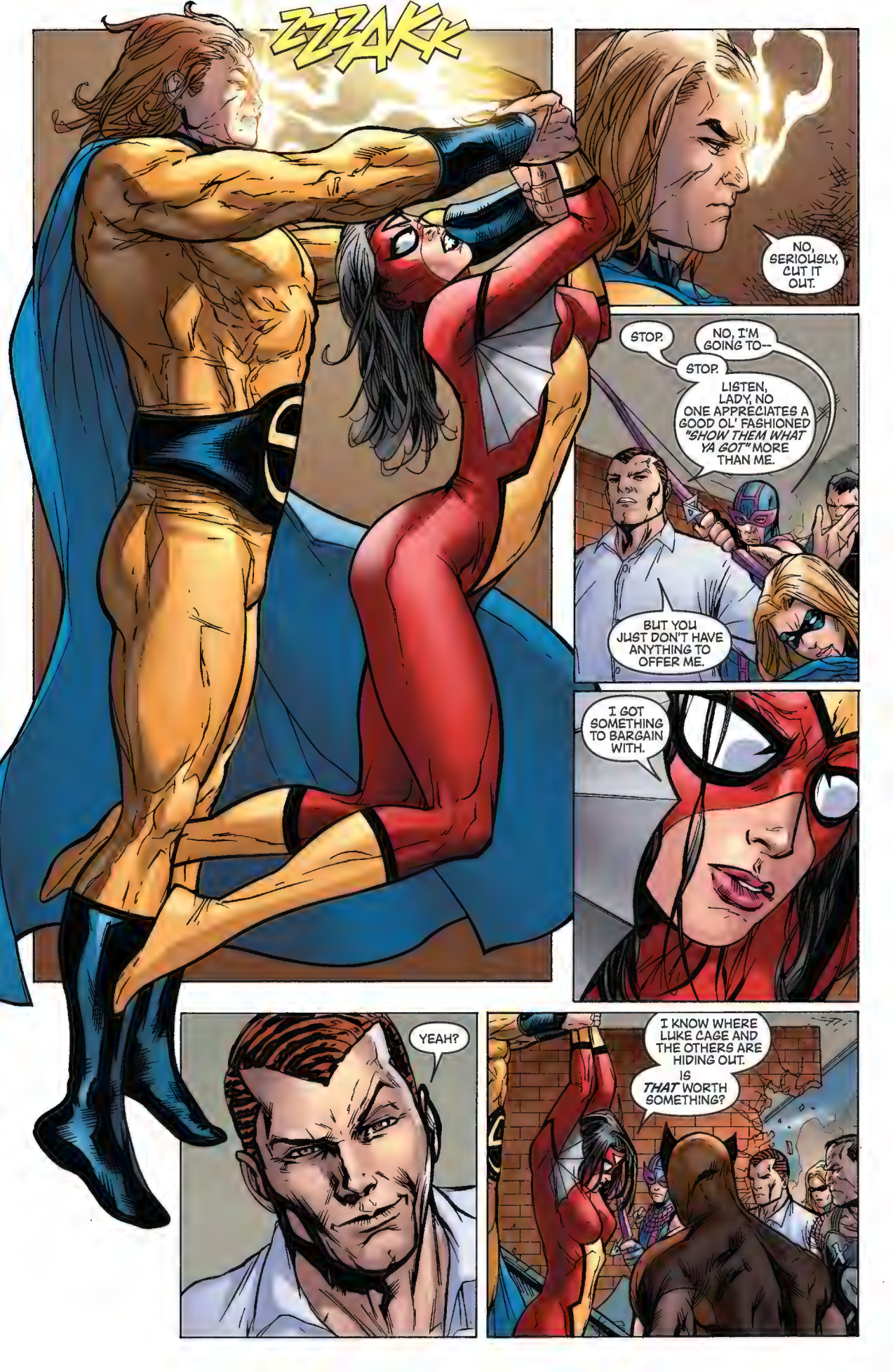
JESSICA JONES CAGE
HI, GUESS I HAVE TO BE THE SANE ONE IN THE ROOM...
WHICH SHOULD NEVER BE THE CASE, BY THE WAY.
BUT WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF PLACES TO LIVE.
BABY CAGE
WE DON'T LURE THEM *HERE*, JESSICA.
I THINK I KNOW A PLACE WE COULD GET THEM TO.
AND *HOW* DO WE LURE THEM?
WHY DO WE KEEP SAYING LURE?
ACTUALLY...
SPIDER-WOMAN
I THINK THIS MIGHT BE WHERE *I* COME IN.
YEAH, YEAH...
YEAH?
YEAH.

OSBORN, WE NEED TO DO A SKRULL SWEEP.
YES.
THERE ARE SOME OF THEM STILL OUT THERE.
NOT AS MANY AS YOU THINK, MARVEL BOY.
CAPTAIN MARVEL.
AVENGERS TOWER
RIGHT. SORRY.
WE HAVE PEOPLE ON THAT. NO, SKRULLS ARE YESTERDAY'S NEWS.
WE NEED YOU, US, TO MAKE PEOPLE FEEL SAFE FOR TOMORROW.
HOW ABOUT TONY STARK? RIGHT? ENEMY NUMBER ONE. HE LET THE INVASION HAPPEN. HE'S A WAR CRIMINAL. RIGHT? LET'S GO GET HIM.
NO.
FOR NOW, TONY STARK IS A COURT OF LAW MATTER.
KICKING A MAN WHILE HE'S DOWN IS HARDLY A WAY TO WIN OVER THE PUBLIC.
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT ON ANY LEVEL?
I DO.
SO YOU DO TOO.
SHOULD WE GO AROUND THE ROOM AND INTRODUCE OURSELVES?
WHAT?
IT WAS MY NICE WAY OF SAYING I DON'T KNOW WHO THE @#$% YOU ARE?
JEEZ!
WELL, LOOK AT THIS NOW...

RRR!
CAN I EAT HER?
HOW CAN I HELP YOU, MISS DREW?
SORRY TO SMASH-CRASH THE PARTY, OSBORN.
I WAS TRYING TO GET A HOLD OF YOU, BUT I WASN'T EXACTLY SURE HOW.
CAN I KILL IT BEFORE HE EATS IT?
SHE'S NOT AN IT.
THIS ISN'T THE SKRULL QUEEN.
THIS IS THE HUMAN JESSICA DREW.
BUT HAVE PITY ON HER.
HERS WAS THE UNWILLING FACE OF THE SKRULL INVASION.
YEAH. I'M AWARE OF THAT.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

SOMETHING TO DO TO KEEP ME FROM KILLING MYSELF.
YOU WANT A JOB? WITH ME?
I'LL BE HONEST. I WENT TO THE AVENGERS FIRST.
YOU KNOW. THE OTHER AVENGERS...
BUT THEY PRETTY MUCH ALL HATE ME NOW BECAUSE, WELL, BECAUSE OF MY FACE.
THAT WAS CLEARLY A MISTAKE, SO...
SO YOU CAME HERE.
HMMM...
I'M SORRY, MISS DREW.
NOT SURE I'M INTERESTED IN LOOKING AT YOUR FACE EITHER.
SKRULLS ATTACKED US IN OUR HOME AND TRIED TO KILL US!
I AM--
NOT--
A SKRULL.

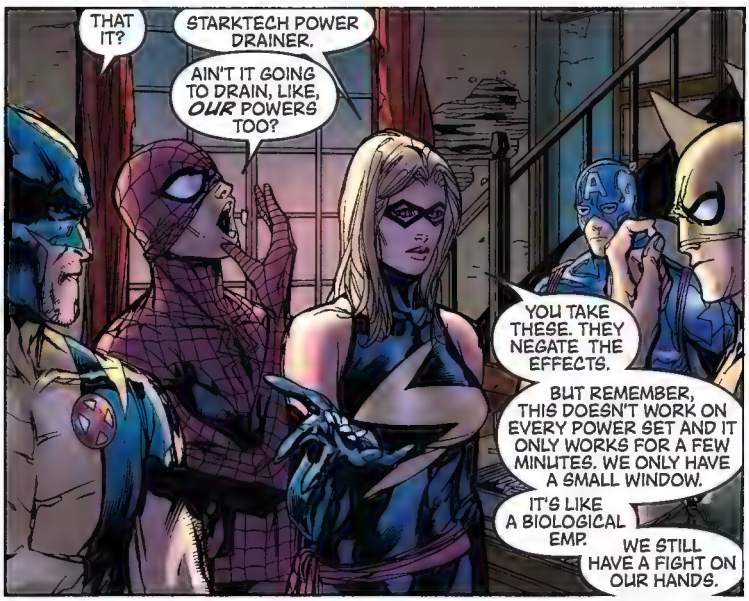
CRACK
GAHH!
ZZZAKK
GGRERAAA!
HA!
ZZZAKK
CRACK
DON'T.
WOMAN, YOU DO NOT--
CUT IT OUT.


ZZZAKK
NO, SERIOUSLY, CUT IT OUT.
STOP.
NO, I'M GOING TO--
STOP.
LISTEN, LADY, NO ONE APPRECIATES A GOOD OL' FASHIONED "SHOW THEM WHAT YA GOT" MORE THAN ME.
BUT YOU JUST DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER ME.
I GOT SOMETHING TO BARGAIN WITH.
YEAH?
I KNOW WHERE LUKE CAGE AND THE OTHERS ARE HIDING OUT.
IS THAT WORTH SOMETHING?

REALLY?
IS THAT WORTH A JOB?
YOU KNOW YOUR BUDDY LUKE CAGE ALREADY *TRIED* THIS CON ON ME.
I KNOW. *THAT'S* WHERE I GOT THE IDEA.
I WAS AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. AND AN AGENT OF HYDRA.
JUST GIVE ME SOMETHING TO DO, MAN.

WHERE ARE WE?
THE HELLFIRE CLUB.
GENIUS.
TOTALLY. WHERE ARE WE?
HELLFIRE CLUB.
ONCE UPON A TIME THEY LOOKED LIKE AN INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL CLUB FOR WEALTHY TYPES...
BUT ITS INNER CIRCLE WAS REALLY A BUNCH'A MUTANTS WHO TRIED TO INFLUENCE THE WORLD BY--EH--DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
THEY AIN'T HERE NOW. WE ARE.

I THOUGHT MAYBE WE'D USE THIS PLACE IF CAP HADN'T A HOOKED US UP WITH HIS.
LIKE, TO LIVE?
BETTER THAN NOTHING.
NOT REALLY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
OKAY. SO...


THAT IT?
STARKTECH POWER DRAINER.
AIN'T IT GOING TO DRAIN, LIKE, OUR POWERS TOO?
YOU TAKE THESE. THEY NEGATE THE EFFECTS.
BUT REMEMBER, THIS DOESN'T WORK ON EVERY POWER SET AND IT ONLY WORKS FOR A FEW MINUTES. WE ONLY HAVE A SMALL WINDOW.
IT'S LIKE A BIOLOGICAL EMP.
WE STILL HAVE A FIGHT ON OUR HANDS.

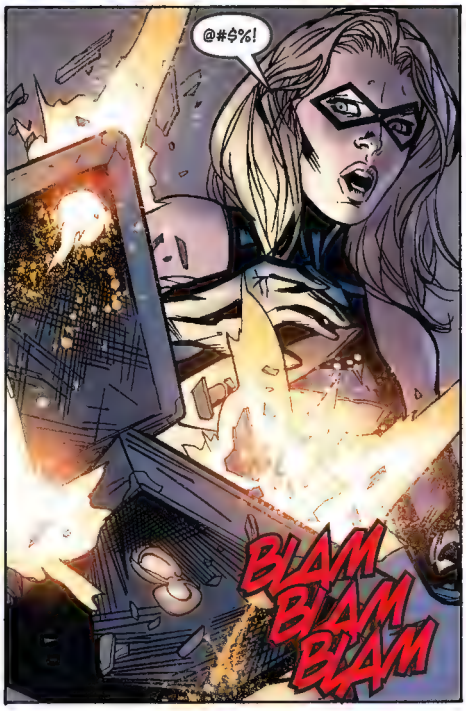
HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN TO USE IT?
SOON, I'D SAY...

I THINK THEY'RE RIGHT BEHIND ME.

HOW'D IT GO?
OH, GREAT.
ONE OF THEM TRIED TO EAT ME. THE OTHERS TRIED TO KILL ME.
BUT OSBORN TOOK THE BAIT?

HE TAGGED ME SO HE COULD FOLLOW ME. SEE?
THAT'S NEW TECH.
SO THEY'RE HERE?
THEY WILL BE SOON.

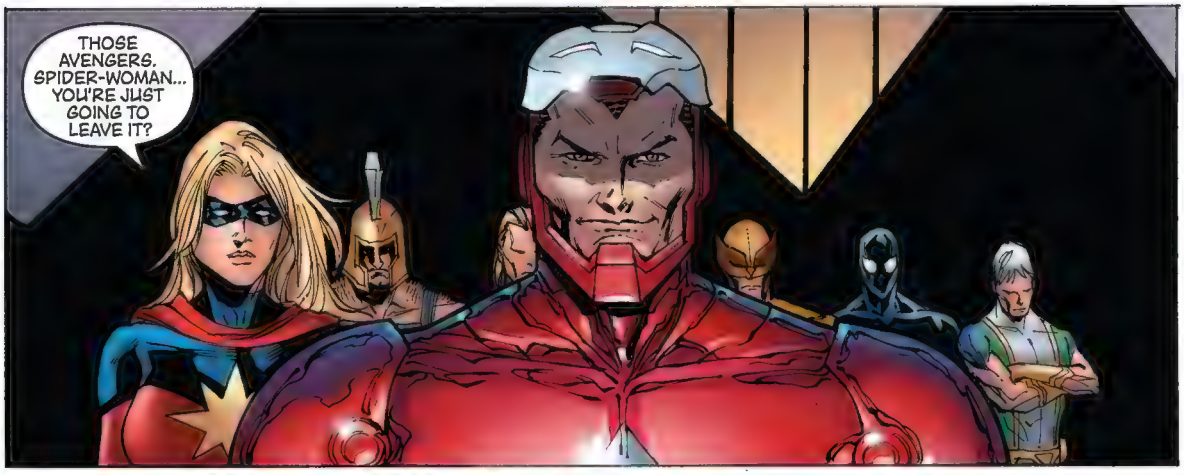
WAIT...
THEY'RE HERE?
SOMETHING'S WRONG.


@#$%!
BLAM BLAM BLAM

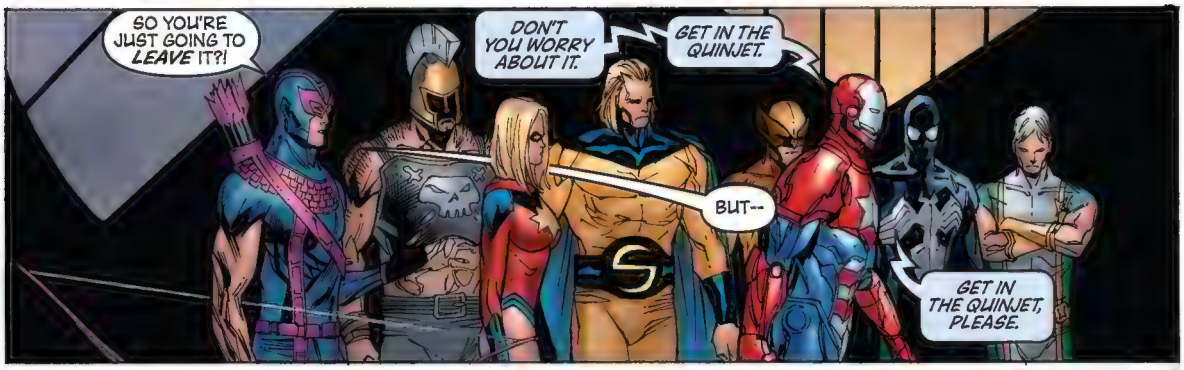
IS THE POWER DRAINER EVEN READY?!
I DIDN'T GET TO TURN IT ON!
@#$%!
WE SHOULD BAIL THEN. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
RIGHT.
CAROL, GET BOBBI OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE--
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
SORRY.
REALLY!
MY SPIDER-SENSE IS OFFICIALLY DOING THE HOKEY POKEY.
YEAH. MINE TOO.
JEEZ!
BLAM
BOOM

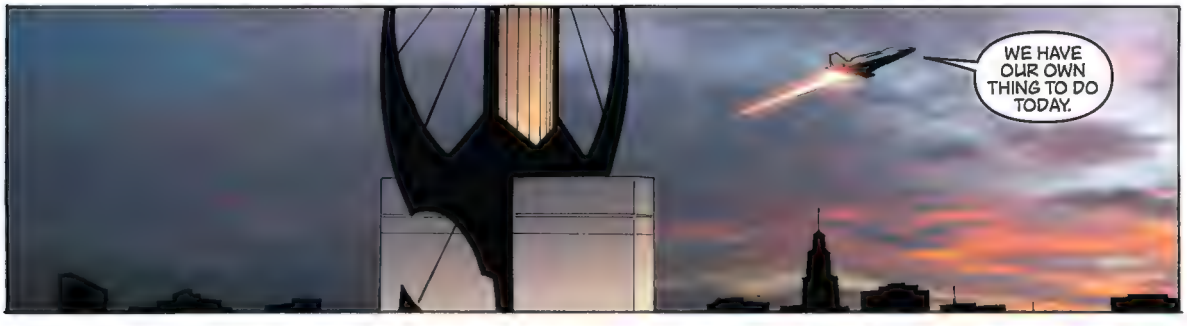
THIS IS THE TEXTBOOK DEFINITION OF PAYBACK TIME.
EXCEPT THIS TIME YOU DON'T HAVE DOCTOR STRANGE TO WIN IT FOR YOU.

BOOM
BOOM
I DON'T GET YOU AT ALL, NORMS.


THOSE AVENGERS. SPIDER-WOMAN... YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LEAVE IT?

IT WAS A TRAP. THEY WERE TRYING TO TRAP US.
MAYBE.
DEFINITELY.
DON'T WORRY. THEY'LL GET THE MESSAGE.
BUT NOT FROM US.
HEY. I DON'T CARE WHO IT IS IN THAT COSTUME...
I'M NOT HAVING MY FIRST ACT AS TOP COP BE BEATING UP CAPTAIN AMERICA.
OKAY, YEAH, I CAN SEE THAT.


SO YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LEAVE IT?!
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT IT.
GET IN THE QUINJET.
BUT--
GET IN THE QUINJET, PLEASE.


WE HAVE OUR OWN THING TO DO TODAY.

WHO THE HELL *ARE* THESE GUYS?!

THE HOOD'S GANG OF VILLAINS.

WHO THE HELL IS *THE HOOD?*

SEE THE GUY WITH THE HOOD...?

AND WHO ARE ALL THESE GUYS?

BAD GUYS TRYING TO KILL US. YOU CAN GOOGLE IT LATER.

YOU DON'T GET A LATER, CREEP.

QUIET METAL PUSS, GROWN-UPS TALKING.

BUT IF YOU'RE ASKING WHY ARE THEY HERE... NOW?

GOOD QUESTION.
WHOKK
AND I'M NOT EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE HERE. I'M NOT ON THE TEAM ANYMORE.
I ONLY JOINED THE AVENGERS IN THE FIRST PLACE TO BACK UP MY BOY LUKE...
...BUT MY LIFE, MY REAL LIFE, IS FALLING APART.
KRAK
THIS FIGHT IS ACTUALLY THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY WEEK. THAT'S HOW CRAPPY MY LIFE'S BEEN.
I NEED TO SPEND SOME MORE TIME AS DANNY RAND AND A LITTLE LESS TIME IN MY YELLOW BOOOAAAGGH!
GONNA WATCH YOU DIE!
HOLD HIM! HOLD HIM!
NO. NO NO NO.
I MAY BUY THE FARM ONE DAY, BUT I'M SURE AS HELL NOT GOING TO BE TAKEN OUT BY A GUY WHO LOOKS LIKE THAT!
WHMPP
AAGGH!

SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE. WAY WRONG.
THIS WASN'T THE FIGHT WE WERE DOWN FOR.
WHERE'S NORMAN OSBORN? WHERE'S HIS AVENGERS?
DID SPIDER-WOMAN SCREW US OVER? WHAT SIDE'S SHE PLAYIN'?
SHE'S STILL A SKRULL AS FAR AS I KNOW.
SHE'S SOMETHING.
WHY'S SHE EVEN ON THE TEAM? WHY WON'T SHE JUST GO AWAY?
I DON'T EVEN WANT TO LOOK AT HER.
YA SEND HER OUT TO DO ONE DAMN THING AND THIS IS HOW IT ENDS UP?
WE'RE GONNA HAVE A TALK END OF THIS, ME AND HER--THAT I PROMISE.

THIS ISN'T RIGHT.
I KNOW I'M SICK IN THE HEAD, BUT THIS IS GREAT!
WE GO AFTER OSBORN AND WE END UP IN THIS?
I FEEL LIKE MY OLD SELF. FINALLY.
HOW WOULD THE HOOD EVEN KNOW WHERE WE ARE?
CRACK
THIS IS AVENGERS STUFF. THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE. THIS IS WEST COAST AVENGERS GOOD.
WE TELL OSBORN WHERE WE ARE, OSBORN SENDS THEM?
WHAT'S THE CONNECTION? WHAT KIND OF DEAL THEY GOT GOING?
NOT EXACTLY SURE WHO ANYONE IS, BUT I CAN HIT THEM, I'M WITH CLINT, WE'RE KICKIN' ASS, THIS IS GOOD.

THIS IS MY FAULT
I DON'T KNOW HOW THIS TURNED INTO THIS, BUT IT'S MY FAULT
AND EVERYONE HATES ME
ONE DAY AS AN AVENGER AND I FAIL COMPLETELY. WHY AM I EVEN HERE?
THESE PEOPLE HATE ME. THEY LOOK AT ME AND THEY SEE SKRULL AND LOSER AND SKRULL LOSER
I HATE THIS.
I HATE FEELING LIKE THIS.
I HATE FEELING LIKE THIS!
I HATE THAT THIS IS THE SUM OF ALL THE PARTS OF MY LIFE.
WELL, IF THIS IS HOW I GOTTA GO, I'M TAKING AS MANY OF THEM WITH ME AS I CAN!

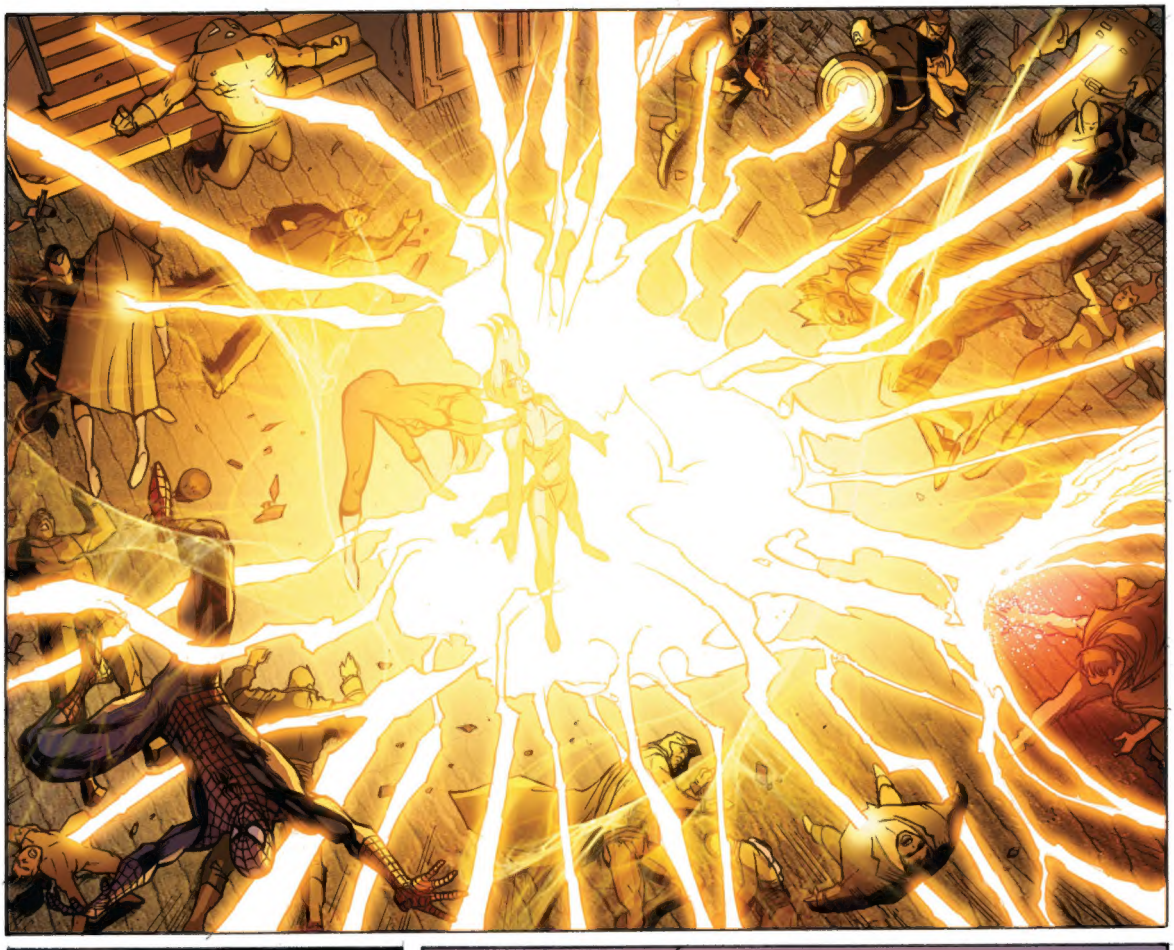
MAN, SAY WHAT YOU WANT ABOUT ME...
GOOD LOOKS, GRAVITAS, ICONIC COSTUME DESIGN...
BUT MAN, DOES MY TIMING EL SUCK-O.
SPOK
THEY ASKED ME TO BE AN AVENGER WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL...I SAID NO.
THEY ASKED ME WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE... AND I SAID NO.
YOUNG ADULT, NOPE.
NOW I SAY YES!
NOW, WHEN THERE'S NO MANSION, NO BUTLER, NO TOWER, NO QUINJET, NO BIG TABLE WITH AN "A" ON IT...
THWIP
THWIP
I GET TO HIDE IN FAKE CAPTAIN AMERICA'S BASEMENT AND WAIT FOR THINGS LIKE THIS.
I TRULY AM A GENIUS.

KILL THESE @#$%ERS!
HYARGH!
AAGGH!
KILL EVERY SINGLE ONE!
COME ON!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
AAGGH!
DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO THIS IS!
AAGGH!
BUT YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR AN EARLY OUT?
HAPPY TO OBLIGE!

THERE'S A TIME IN MY LIFE WHEN I COULD EASILY HAVE FOUND MYSELF ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS FIGHT.
BUT NOW I'M A DIFFERENT MAN, I'M CAPTAIN AMERICA.
TANG
I'M REPRESENTING THINGS BIGGER THAN MYSELF. AND I HAVE TO REMIND MYSELF OF THAT EVERY THREE SECONDS.
AAGGH!
CRACK
THIS IS THE TEAM YOU WANTED, STEVE. I'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN.
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...
TANG
GAAGH!!
I MEANT WHAT I SAID TO THEM. THE AVENGERS WAS JUST AS MUCH PART OF CAPTAIN AMERICA'S LEGACY AS WORLD WAR TWO.
SCREW OSBORN AND SCREW TONY STARK. THESE ARE THE AVENGERS.
THE END.
AND I KNOW YOU FOUGHT THESE BUST-'EM-UPS THE WAY YOU FOUGHT THEM, STEVE...
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BUT I HAVE MY OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS.

THIS HOOD. THIS POSEUR.
YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME ON? YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ON THE AVENGERS?
YOU'RE A GUY IN A HOOD!
BLAM
THEY CAUGHT US WITH OUR PANTS DOWN AND WE'RE STILL HOLDING OUR OWN.
WE CAN DO THIS. SCREW THESE GUYS. TEN-TIME LOSERS.
WE CAN TAKE THESE GUYS BLINDFOLDED.
I'M GOING TO SEND YOU BACK TO OSBORN WITH A MESSAGE, PAL.
FSHAMM
FEEL THAT. FEEL IT!
THAT'S WHAT YOUR LIFE'S GONNA BE LIKE EVERY DAY YOU COME AT US LIKE THIS.
@#$%.
THIS GUY DOESN'T KNOW HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE UNCONSCIOUS OR CRYING.
BLAM BLAM BLAM

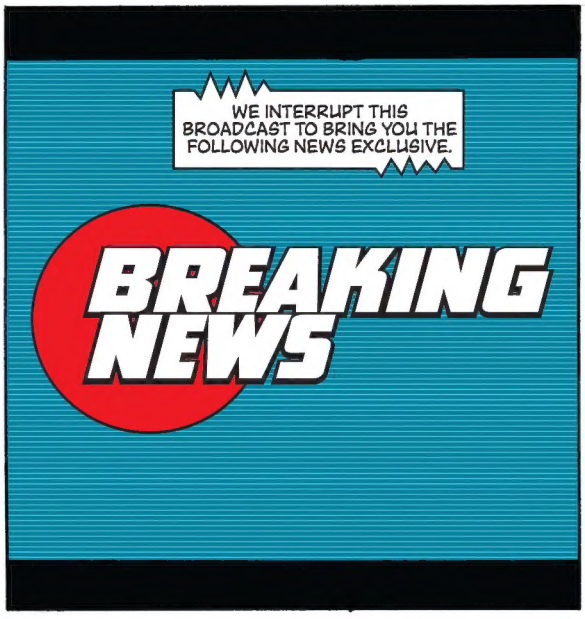
GYAAAGGHH!
SLICE
TANG
I'VE GOT AN IDEA, JESS. BLAST ME.
BLAST YOU?
EVERY-THING YOU GOT.
DO IT.
I CAN TAKE IT AND GIVE IT BACK TO THEM BIG TIME.
DO IT!



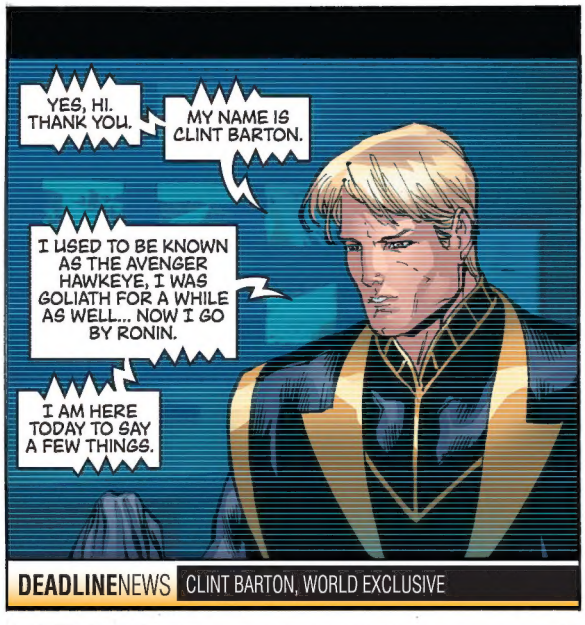
AVENGERS... LET'S GET THE @#$% OUT OF HERE.
BUT I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A FUNNY ANECDOTE WITH--
LET'S GO!

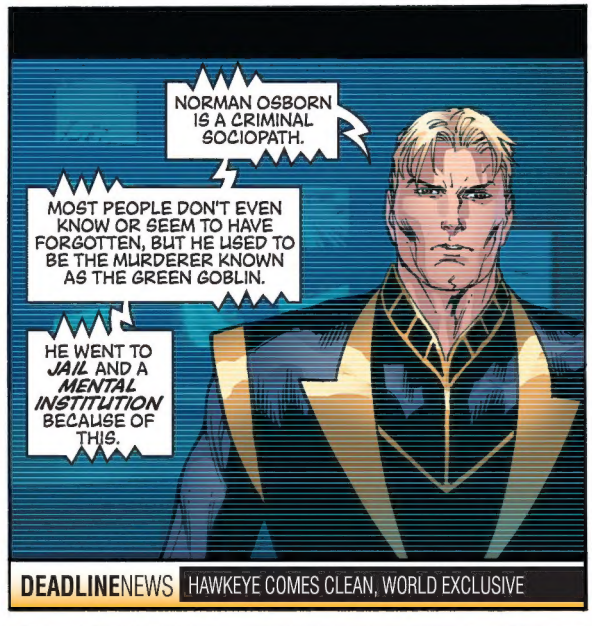
UP!
GET UP!

SON OF A BITCH!
CRASH
I HATE TO RUN AWAY FROM A FIGHT LIKE THAT.
IT WASN'T WHAT WE WERE THERE FOR AND IT WASN'T GOING OUR WAY.
SO WE RAN.
TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.
INTRODUCE ME TO YOUR SENSEI.
I WILL.
I'D LIKE TO SLAP HIM.
EVERYONE-- HEY, EVERYONE CALM DOWN!
AND STOP BREAKING MY HOUSE.
SORRY. BUT DID YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED? WE TRY TO TRAP OSBORN AND THE HOOD SHOWS UP WITH AN ARMY.
YEAH? I MISSED THAT PART.
LISTEN TO ME... WE TRY TO TRAP OSBORN AND THE HOOD SHOWS UP WITH AN ARMY.
SO OSBORN AND THE HOOD ARE IN CAHOOTS.
OSBORN AND THE HOOD.
HAS TO BE.
WELL DAMN.
RIGHT?
I'M SORRY THIS WENT THIS WAY.
NOT YOUR FAULT.
IT IS.
YOU GOT US OUT OF THERE.
FORGET IT, JESS. LISTEN, IF NORMAN'S GOT SOME DEALINGS WITH CRIMINALS...
IF?
IF?!
WHERE'S HE GOING?
I DO NOT KNOW.
CLINT?

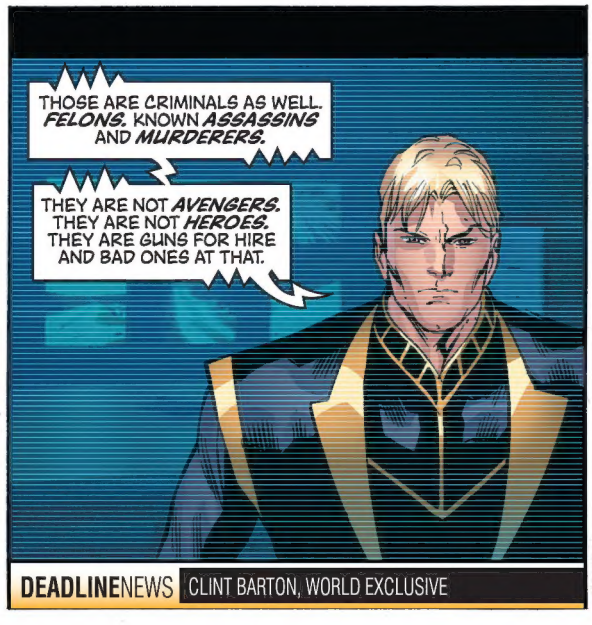

WE INTERRUPT THIS BROADCAST TO BRING YOU THE FOLLOWING NEWS EXCLUSIVE.
BREAKING NEWS

A STORY LITERALLY DROPPED IN OUR LAPS TONIGHT.
IN OUR STUDIO, LIVE, IS A MAN OF NOTORIOUS LEGEND AND... HE HAS SOMETHING HE WANTS TO SAY.
SO WE'RE GOING TO LET HIM... WELCOME.
DEADLINENEWS ANNIE DEACONS, CORRESPONDENT

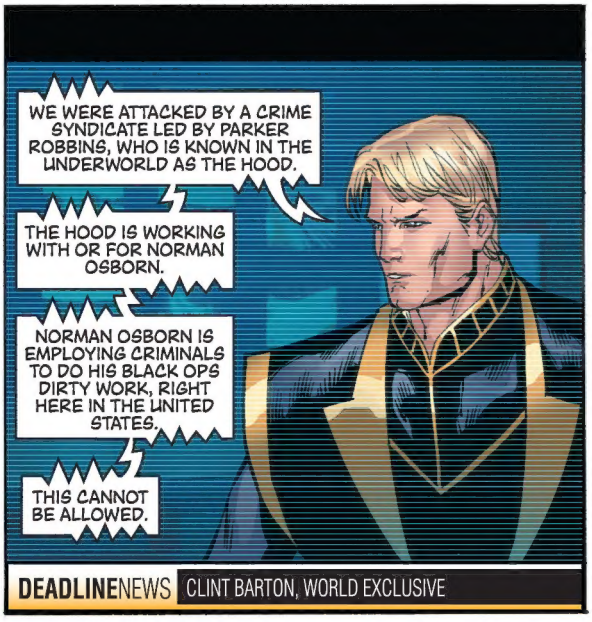

YES, HI. THANK YOU.
MY NAME IS CLINT BARTON.
I USED TO BE KNOWN AS THE AVENGER HAWKEYE, I WAS GOLIATH FOR A WHILE AS WELL... NOW I GO BY RONIN.
I AM HERE TODAY TO SAY A FEW THINGS.
DEADLINENEWS CLINT BARTON, WORLD EXCLUSIVE


NORMAN OSBORN IS A CRIMINAL SOCIOPATH.
MOST PEOPLE DON'T EVEN KNOW OR SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN, BUT HE USED TO BE THE MURDERER KNOWN AS THE GREEN GOBLIN.
HE WENT TO JAIL AND A MENTAL INSTITUTION BECAUSE OF THIS.
DEADLINENEWS HAWKEYE COMES CLEAN, WORLD EXCLUSIVE

I BRING THIS UP BECAUSE SOMEHOW ALL THIS IS BEING GLOSSED OVER BY THE MEDIA SO HE CAN TAKE TONY STARK AND NICK FURY'S OLD JOB.
THE FACT THAT THIS IS BEING GLOSSED OVER IS ONE OF THE MOST INSANE THINGS I HAVE EVER SEEN.
AND THOSE AVENGERS OF HIS... THOSE CHARACTERS DRESSED AS AVENGERS WHOSE SECRET IDENTITIES ARE BEING KEPT UNDER WRAPS AS A POINT OF "NATIONAL SECURITY..."
DEADLINENEWS CLINT BARTON/ AVENGER, WORLD EXCLUSIVE


THOSE ARE CRIMINALS AS WELL. FELONS. KNOWN ASSASSINS AND MURDERERS.
THEY ARE NOT AVENGERS. THEY ARE NOT HEROES. THEY ARE GUNS FOR HIRE AND BAD ONES AT THAT.
DEADLINENEWS CLINT BARTON, WORLD EXCLUSIVE

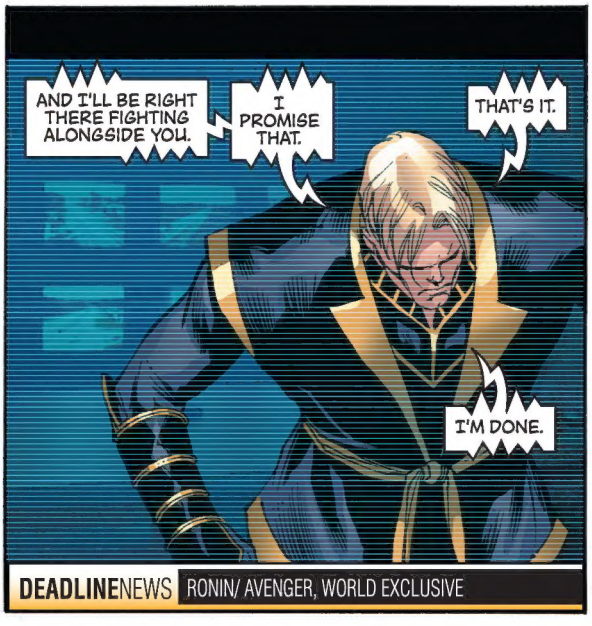
AND THIS ISN'T ME HAVING A TANTRUM BECAUSE SOMEONE ELSE IS RUNNING AROUND DRESSED IN MY OLD COSTUME.
I'M A GROWN MAN-- I CAN HANDLE THAT.
I CAME HERE BECAUSE TONIGHT, ME AND MY TEAM, THE REAL AVENGERS...
DEADLINENEWS
WORLD EXCLUSIVE, AVENGER CONTROVERSY


WE WERE ATTACKED BY A CRIME SYNDICATE LED BY PARKER ROBBINS, WHO IS KNOWN IN THE UNDERWORLD AS THE HOOD.
THE HOOD IS WORKING WITH OR FOR NORMAN OSBORN.
NORMAN OSBORN IS EMPLOYING CRIMINALS TO DO HIS BLACK OPS DIRTY WORK, RIGHT HERE IN THE UNITED STATES.
THIS CANNOT BE ALLOWED.
DEADLINENEWS
CLINT BARTON, WORLD EXCLUSIVE

THIS NEEDS TO BE LOOKED INTO BY PEOPLE OF AUTHORITY. THIS NEEDS TO BE STOPPED.
I CAME HERE TONIGHT TO TELL PEOPLE THE TRUTH.
TO TELL PEOPLE WHAT IS GOING ON.
I CAME HERE TO TELL NORMAN OSBORN AND HIS GAGGLE OF CRIMINALS THAT WE'RE NOT AFRAID OF YOU.
AT ALL.
DEADLINENEWS
CLINT BARTON, WORLD EXCLUSIVE

MY NAME IS CLINT BARTON AND I AM AN AVENGER.
I DON'T CARE WHO LIVES IN THAT BIG TOWER-- I'M AN AVENGER, AND MY TEAM OF AVENGERS IS GOING TO BE OUT THERE EVERY DAY.
FIGHTING FOR YOU. FIGHTING AGAINST THIS.
DEADLINENEWS
CLINT BARTON, WORLD EXCLUSIVE

FIGHTING FOR WHAT'S RIGHT.
I'M HERE TO SAY: YOU DON'T HAVE TO SIT THERE AND TAKE THIS.
DON'T LET THE BAD GUYS WIN.
YOU FIGHT. YOU FIGHT FOR YOUR FREEDOM.
DEADLINENEWS
AVENGERS MADNESS, WORLD EXCLUSIVE


AND I'LL BE RIGHT THERE FIGHTING ALONGSIDE YOU.
I PROMISE THAT.
THAT'S IT.
I'M DONE.
DEADLINENEWS
RONIN/ AVENGER, WORLD EXCLUSIVE